



February 24, 2015

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9  
Drinking Water Protection Section, Mail Code WTR-3-2  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105

Attention: Nancy Rumrill

The Coolidge Chamber of Commerce is committed to advancing the economic, civic, and cultural fortitude of the Pinal County Region. The Chamber believes that to maintain a strong economy, Arizona must attract and develop businesses in diverse industry sectors.

The Florence Copper project is a promising economic opportunity to create jobs and investment in our local economy. We are encouraged by the opportunity to add hundreds of high paying jobs directly to the area, along with more than 1,000 throughout the state. High paying jobs that will help diversify our region's economy are crucial to the recovery of our economy and will certainly lead to a more stable long term economy.

The Coolidge Chamber is encouraged by the \$250 million initial capital investment and more than \$8 million in annual tax revenue expected for the state and county. In addition, the \$3.4 million in new tax revenue available to the Florence Unified School District will be key to preparing our students to enter into the 21st century workforce.

We must support efforts to diversify our local economy, retain and strengthen existing businesses, and spur new business growth. Copper is one of Arizona's 5 major resources and a significant portion of our nations production. The most innovative and cutting edge technologies are using more and more copper and this is an industry we can be proud of.

As a diverse group that makes up our Chamber of Commerce, the interests of the entire group are important to us. While we generally favor less regulation, we are confident that the 19 different environmental permits with federal and state agencies will ensure the project is safe and properly monitored.

Thank you again for the opportunity to learn more about the Florence Copper Project. We wish you luck in your endeavor and look forward to hearing from you again.

Lynn Parsons  
Executive Director